

The regular meeting of the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden was held on September 27, 1976 with Chairman, Thomas E. Colgan, presiding.

The minutes of the June 28 minutes were approved as circulated.

The financial report of the Trustees was read and the Budget for the year to date circulated. A copy of these reports is on file. Mr. Liberman reported that the taxes are under \$59,000 this year as compared to \$76,000. last year. Arden no longer has to pay the sewer tax of \$15,000, because the individual sanitary districts no longer exists. All your land rent is now deductible from your federal and state taxes.

The Trustees and the Community Planning Committee are planning to inspect leasehold adjoining the woodlands to determine whether boundaries are being observed. The Trustees will use existing surveys where available, and they request the cooperation of leaseholders in locating markers. The Community Planning Committee is inspecting the points of access to the woodlands including fire lanes, which appear on July 1962 map of Arden prepared by Van Demark & Lynch.

Mr. Liberman reported that the County Planning Department still found it undesirable to rezone the land at Grubbs corner as requested by Hoopeses for their building project of small stores and offices. Report accepted.

There were no reports from the Assessors or the Auditing Committee.

The proposed budget for fiscal year March 25, 1977 to March 24, 1978 was presented by the Chairman, William Press.

Income is: Land Rent \$111,000. Yearly Street Aid Fund, 2,100. Interest on Reserve Funds 3,000., Other Income 500., Total Income: \$116,600.

Taxes and Administrative Expenses:

Sewer Assessment None, County Taxes \$17,422, School Taxes \$52,257 (see Note 4) Administrative expenses \$6,000. Total \$75,679.

Funds available for Budgeting:

Roads #2,3,4-\$8,000. Commons and Forests #2 \$7,500, Salaries, Assembly Secretary 1,350, Village Treasurer \$260., Special Arden Clean-Up 600., Registration Committee 700., Rental Gild Hall 300., Donations to Claymont Fire Co., 225 and to ACRA 250., Buzz Ware Village Center 500. Safety Committee 500. Contingencies \$1,500. and Community Trash Collection-\$13,600 (Note 5) Total Budgeted \$35,285, Balance \$5,636.

Note 1 states that Budget Committee shall review actual and anticipated receipts and expenditures prior to each Town Assembly. If any item is expected to deviate by \$1000. from the budget other items shall be revised to ensure total expenditures do not exceed receipts.

Note 2 Permits interchangeable expense of roads and commons at the discretion of the Civic Committee and any funds not expended can be carried over to the following year.

Note 3: Aggregate funds for Road provide the following: Municipal Street Aid Funds \$7,500, Revenue Sharing Fund, \$2,500 and General Fund from above or Total of \$18,000.



Note 4 states that "If school taxes exceed budgeted estimates, up to \$5,000 of the excess will be taken from budgeted road expenditures.

It was pointed out that school taxes may face a 20% increase over 1976 taxes for busing and increases in teacher salaries.

A motion was made and passed to strike out Note 4 from the proposed budget.

A motion was made that we use \$10,000 of the surplus fund to take care of the Arden Forests.

It was pointed out that it is fiscally irresponsible to use up our surplus when our school taxes may be very high.

The Comprehensive Community Plan study found the forests in good condition and felt that the dead trees and brush are important for ecology. The motion was withdrawn.

The Safety Committee requested that budget for Safety Committee be increased to \$1500 because they need to replace signs, improve traffic markings, get new signs.

A motion was made and passed to table the action on the Budget Committee until The Civic Committee and the Safety Committee made their reports.

Civic Committee report by Warren Hoffman

Major activities of the committee included the 1976 road repair program, tree work, investigation of feasibility of garbage service for the Village and several minor items.

Road rebuilding is well underway for 1976. Work completes on Mill Road, Cherry Lane Extension, Woodland Lane Extension, Woodland Lane near the Frank Stephens Memorial Theatre and Orleans Road. Work on Millers, Pond and Hillside Roads will be completed soon. The most significant work involves replacement of pavement on Mill Road and installation of concrete gutter on one side of Pond Road. A new lease has to be drawn up for the Leon Tanzers' property because they gave permission for the gutter to extend about two feet onto their leasehold.

Select tree work was done throughout the Village and the dead stumps have been removed from the cemetery and the Sherwood Green.

Mr. Morris Rosin is finally connected to the sewer and a representative of the Civic Committee has inspected the work.

During the Fall we will complete mowing the Greens, clean the roads, gutters, and catch basins and arrange for snow removal. Residents are urged to keep the sides of the roads adjacent to their property neat and clean. The Town cannot afford to maintain these areas.

Mr. Reese Davis prepared the report on feasibility of contracting for trash collection for the entire Village.

In the course of its investigation the Civic Committee obtained estimates from five trash collectors currently operating in Arden. Upon approval of this item in the budget, the Committee will negotiate to obtain the best arrangement considering cost, service, and reliability for the year commencing March 25, 1977. We plan to offer off-the-road collection to all residents. It is possible that several options will be offered depending upon the collector to whom the contract is offered.



Current cost of individual collections:  
 244 Household x \$7/month x 12 months = \$20,496/yr.

Estimated cost of Town Collection = 14,000/yr.  
 Potential Saving 6,496/yr.

This represents a 32% Saving simply by combining the collection services.

The immediate saving to the resident who is now paying directly for his own trash collection is the full amount of this payment (\$84 per Year.) The money to pay for Town collection service is already available from our present levels of land rent. In effect we are swapping sewer charges for trash collection.

Reasons why community trash collection is recommended by the Civic Committee:

- a. Reduce the number of large trash trucks damaging the sides of the roads from 4 to 1. Will permit pinpointing of responsibility for future roadside damage.
- b. Keep the Town more clean. At the present time some residents do not have trash collection. These residents burn paper, which is illegal and some dispose of cans and bottles in the community trash containers which are maintained only for the cleanliness of the Greens.

Frank Akutowicz suggested that we should recycle all our trash; therefore, we do not need trash collection service.

The Highland Stables will collect bags of leaves once a week if you call for a pick up.

On motion the report of the Civic Committee was accepted.

The Safety Committee Report was presented by Thomas Stapleford, Chairman.

The Committee had substantial patrol activity during the summer that contributed to a relatively uneventful summer. A recent purse snatching is under investigation by the County Detectives. The Stile sign that was removed was returned and replaced. Persons responsible are not known. Fines for violations of Arden Code since last meeting amounted to \$127.

Volunteers are needed for Halloween patrol again this year. They will patrol with a member of the Safety Committee who is equipped with a two-way radio. A meeting of the Safety Committee to brief volunteers will be held on Saturday morning, October 21, 1976 from 9 to 11 A. M.

A detailed and comprehensive study of traffic marking in Arden has been completed and a four page report prepared. Recommendations are made for substantial improvements, particularly in intersections, markings and will require the expenditure of significant funds. The Report on motion accepted.

On motion the report of the Budget Committee was lifted from the table for action.

A motion was made to add \$1000 to the Safety Committee Budget figure changing the amount to \$1500.

An amended motion to change the added amount to \$500 for the Safety Committee was withdrawn and the original motion was accepted.

The Amended Budget of Total budget of \$36,285 and Balance of \$4,636 was accepted as amended and sent to referendum.



# Community Planning report by Ethel Monfort:

A college student spent about a week this last summer conducting a survey for the Committee. We had him select at random people to visit and and interview, using a questionnaire that we prepared for him. He interviewed 46 adults which amounts to 11% of the voters of Arden. He asked 23 questions and received a wide range of opinions and comments. The full summary is deposited with the Town Secretary for examination if desired.

About 90% said that they were satisfied with the administration of the Arden Charter--and they understood the Arden Single Tax system. About 2/3 said: They thought the Safety Committee was doing ok and opposed hiring a paid cop. They would help the Safety Committee patrol the town--at least once a month. They were concerned with unleashed dogs and wanted the new dog ordinance strictly enforced. Street signs and markings are ok.

The Committee prepared and published a book on the History of Arden at town expense. A copy was given to each resident and will be given to all new residents. Copies for those outside of Arden may be purchased for \$2.00. The money from the sale of the books, \$406.00 has been turned over to the Village Treasurer and books may be purchased from her.

Paul Thompson, Richard Florschutz and Harold Monfort have been added to the Community Planning Committee to help with the survey of planned projects. The report on motion accepted.

## Buzz Ware Village Center Committee report by Marjorie van Gulick:

The Center is being used increasingly. There is hardly an evening without at least one group meeting.

The Arden Friday Nights will begin again on October 1st at 8 P. M. There will be a slight change in the activities. There will be a variety of games and this year we will offer a series of mini-courses at the Village Center. The month of October will include: knitting, arts and crafts, and chess instruction.

On October 3, the Center will host the presentation of the Arden Album Quilt.

The Committee would like to remind the residents that the original contract with the Montessori School calls for either party to notify the other no later than September, 1977 if a change is contemplated. Now is the time to start thinking about this. The report on motion was accepted.

Registration Committee reported that there were 411 voters.

Thomas Colgan reported that we had received a letter from New Castle County asking whether we wanted to participate in a "Community Development Block Grant". We can receive a pro-rated share of this grant to carry out community development activities on our own.

After a lot of study last year it was decided to not participate, because anyone who gets the money is leaving themselves wide open to having to provide space for low income housing.

A motion was made and carried to decline to participate with New Castle County in Community Development Block Grant.



Report from the 75th Anniversary Committee by Carolyn Liberman.

A check for \$200 has been given to the Village of Arden. This makes a total repayment of \$800 on the advance of \$1000 for the celebration. We still have maps, plates, tiles, and notepaper for sale and one more walking tour, all of which will provide funds to further reduce our loan.

The Delaware League of Local Governments have been advising its members concerning the Sunshine Law that was signed by the Governor in July, 1976 and will become effective on January 1, 1977.

All meetings of all committees must be open to the public, , agenda shall include general statement of major issues expected to be discussed. Record must be kept of those members present and of each vote taken.

Frank Akutowicz has served the Village of Arden for several years very diligently on the Brandywine Council of Civic Associations, but he would like to be replaced. Burt Passanante has agreed to represent Arden.

A final report was prepared and accepted with thanks to the Special Committee to Review Present Tax Program. They had been selected in 1975 by the Chairman of the Town Assembly to review and re-evaluate our present tax program and to make recommendations for improvements or changes thereto as it may find desirable or necessary.

An open meeting was held on September 19, 1976 at which time the committee shared the information they had collected.

Arden was founded in 1900 to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Single Tax concept. The Community has continued under the amended Deed of Trust of January 31, 1908.

The focus of this committee was the justice of paying county and school property taxes assessed against leaseholders' buildings from land rent.

The Committee studied the following:

1. Buildings, land and sewer taxes paid individually with adjusted land rent for administration of the town,
2. Building and land taxes paid individually with sewer taxes included in land rent,
3. Building taxes only, paid individually, with sewer and land taxes included in land rent.

An enlarged map of Arden was prepared with this information worked out for each leasehold. This map enables the leaseholder to determine whether the amount he now pays in land rent is higher or lower than that which he would pay if he paid his taxes individually. Only in a few extreme cases are the differences very great. The committee noted apparent inaccuracies in the County assessments of buildings and land.

A motion was made and passed that the Civic Committee be empowered to negotiate a contract for the Village of Arden for a town-wide trash collection subject to budget approval.

Following were nominated to serve on the Board of Assessors:

Deborah Colgan	Carl VonDreele	Bartholmeo Passante
Bernard Brachman	Jane Aughey	Pamela Gilpatrick
Clyde Davis	Matthew O'Conner	John Grimaldi
Andrew Foote	Frank Herzog	Eugene Shaw
Charlotte Shedd		

The following resolution was made:

Resolve that the Chairman of the Town Assembly appoint a committee to study county building and land assessments on Arden leaseholds. This committee shall recommend procedures for challenging incorrect assessments. The committee shall report on progress and procedures being used by the January, 1977 Town Assembly.

The resolution on motion was approved.

The motion for adjournment was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Morley*  
Mary Morley  
Secretary